

# update

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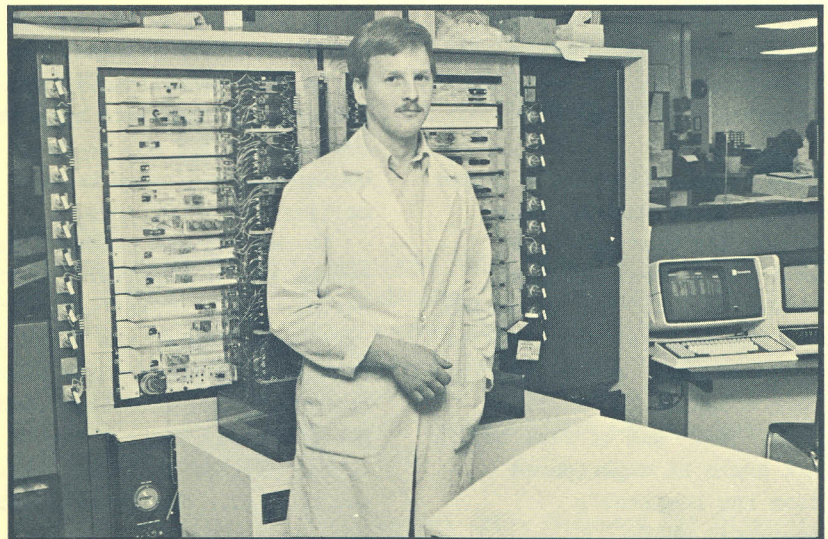
September 23, 1983

## Argus takes another bite out of costs

You walk into the lab and high tech just rolls over you, under you, around you. Computer printers chatter, alarms call insistently, electric typewriters rap words onto paper. But above it all, through it all is the hum. The constant muffled hum of high tech electronics. It's not loud, yet it buries everything else. In its quiet tone it seems to be shouting, "I'm complicated, I'm specialized, I'm sensitive, don't touch."

Certainly in a place like this an advanced engineering degree would be needed to come up with or even understand any Argus Program suggestion, right? Wrong. The latest Argus award winner proves that even in high tech areas we need to look hard at basics to make sure we are doing things the best way.

David Nadig, a chemical lab technician, took a look at basics in a complicated piece of equipment and made a suggestion that will save the Hospital Center \$1,089.88 per year. The piece of equipment is the Sequential Multiple Analysis Computerized II (S.M.A.C.) which uses heat, enzymes, and photo cells to test the level of 20 chemicals in blood samples. When these tests are done, a printer types the results onto an 8½" x 11" piece of computer paper.



*Argus award winner David Nadig in front of S.M.A.C. unit.*

The list of test results used to be printed one under another on the left side of the paper. This meant the results for each patient used up a full sheet of paper but a lot of paper was wasted because the right side of the page was empty. Nadig suggested that the results be printed across the page so the list of results for each patient uses only three lines. This way, the results for 11 patients instead of one can be printed on each sheet of paper.

Nadig's idea will save the Hospital Center 123,142 sheets of paper per year and Nadig has been awarded \$108.98 or 10% of the savings.



# The Interns

They came from all over. They came from Allentown, Easton, Reading, Pottstown, Lansdale, and Phillipsburg. They came from Reading Community College, Cedar Crest College, The University of Bridgeport, St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, York College, Montgomery County Community College, The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing, and Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales.

They are The Interns. They were the first class to go through the Hospital Center's new critical care internship program. And though they have now graduated, their places in the program taken by a new class, they will always be remembered as The Interns.



*The Interns*

The critical care internship program represents a bold move in a new direction at the Hospital Center. Before the program started, nurses had to have at least one year of general medical/surgical or prior critical care experience before they could begin preparing for assignments in the hospital's critical care units.

But this system presented a number of problems. It eliminated from consideration for critical care assignments the largest group of available nurses: the new graduates. It reduced the hospital's ability to compete for new staff members during a time when a nationwide nursing shortage existed. And it resulted in a constant drain of experienced nurses from the hospital's medical/surgical units.

But perhaps the greatest problem was presented with the announcement of the shock/trauma unit expansion. To meet the staffing needs of this expanded unit and also allow for normal staff transfers and departures, 60 additional critical care R.N.'s had to be trained quickly. The system being used at the time to fill critical care vacancies simply could not meet the need.

So the critical care internship program was born. An intensive training program which includes seven to nine months of classroom and clinical critical care experience, it is an addition to the experience based selection process. It allows us to hire inexperienced graduates and provide them with both the theoretical and the hands-on background they need to work in critical care settings.

To develop the program, head nurses of the hospital's central nervous system (CNS) and critical care units listed the tasks performed by nurses in their units along with the skills and knowledge needed to perform those tasks. Based on these lists, precise learning goals were established. The interns pair up with one of four instructors and rotate through the units, a rotation which occurs only after the interns show through testing that they have the skills and knowledge needed in each unit.

How well is the program working? By an overwhelming margin, experienced critical care staff members, nursing instructors, unit managers, nursing administrators, and physicians are terming the program a success.

The former Interns themselves are also strong advocates of the program. Assigned now to just about every critical care unit at the Hospital Center, they feel they have been well prepared to serve in the fast paced, high tech world of critical care. Comments like, "It's the only way to do it; It let us get our feet wet right away; It let us learn what we needed right away; it helped make the technology less intimidating," abound among their ranks.

Many of these nurses, who have all passed their state boards and become R.N.'s, reflected that they might not have come here had this program not been available. They expressed a great deal of satisfaction that they are already doing what they dreamed for years of doing. And they are approaching their duties with an enthusiasm they might have lost during a year long waiting period.

What does the future hold for the program itself? A second class of interns started in July and they bring to the Hospital Center as much diversity as the first group. Continuation of this program will help us meet our continuing need for well qualified critical care nurses.



# Play ball



In April of this year, the public relations office received a call from Rodale Press inquiring if the Hospital Center was interested in getting a team organized to play in an organized coed league consisting of seven teams. A league meeting was held with representatives from each team including The Allentown Hospital, Baker Chemical, Baker Instruments, Blue Cross, the Hospital Center, Rodale Press, and the Veterans Administration Clinic. Rules were decided upon, and the name Corporate Coed Softball League was voted on as the name for the league.

A memo was then distributed to hospital employees with tremendous response. Forty people turned out for the first practice with a few people dropping out after a few weeks. The team ended up with 25 players, 12 men and 13 women. The team roster is as follows:

Will Mest, captain, and Mel Hilbert, mailroom; Wally Smith, respiratory therapy; Julie Flynn and Bob Stephon, clinical laboratory; Mike Quinn, perfusion; Pat Kubik, radiology; Jay Rauch and Victor Stonebraker, pulmonary function; Cathie Jones and Pam Oser, educational development; Bill Huber, Greg Laudenslager, and Angel Perez, security; Jeanne Fignar, financial services; Keith Landis and Kim Morstatt, nursing; Terri Ceci, pre-admission testing; John Kohler, Bob Rienzo, and Margie Schneider, nuclear medicine; Donna Oswald, dietary; Chris Wigfield, 6B; Kay Zelina, business office; and Janet Laudenslager, public relations.

For the first year, the Hospital Center's team, the Hi Flies, had a fair year with a 5-7 record and quite a few exciting moments. It was a fun season, and we look forward to a winning season next year.

## Wimbeldon: hospital style

On Wednesday, July 13, The Allentown Hospital and the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center held their own "Wimbeldon" at the Muhlenberg College tennis courts.

The results are as follows:

### Women's Singles

Judy Holaska, nutrition support (HC), defeated Nancy Davis, administration (AH), 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, and Rosanne Guadagaino, emergency department (AH), defeated Cathy Weibel, Cancer Center mobile rehabilitation team (HC), 6-3, 6-4.

### Men's Singles

Pete Carpenter, special care unit (HC), defeated Andy Toth, cytology laboratory (AH), 6-0, 6-0; Tom Seabourne, vice president (AH), defeated Dick Cipoletti, assistant administrator (HC), 6-1, 7-5; John Bulette, psychiatry (AH), defeated Bill Dunston, social service (HC), 6-4, 6-3; Lee Hawk, vice president (AH), defeated Jeff Lesnoff, perfusion (HC), 7-5, 6-4; and Mike Peters, pastoral care (HC), defeated Chad Carver, medical health sciences library (AH), 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

### Women's Doubles

Judy Holaska (HC) and Cathy Weibel (HC), defeated Pat Herring, cytology laboratory (AH), and Nancy Davis (AH), 6-2, 6-3.

### Men's Doubles

Dick Cipoletti (HC) and Bill Dunston (HC), defeated John Bulette (AH) and Tom Seabourne (AH), 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; and Pete Carpenter (HC) and Jeff Lesnoff (HC), defeated Chad Carver (AH) and Lee Hawk (AH), 6-1, 6-2.

### Mixed Doubles

Nancy Davis (AH) and Tom Seabourne (AH), defeated Judy Holaska (HC) and Dick Cipoletti (HC), 6-2, 0-6, 6-4, and Cathy Weibel (HC) and Bill Dunston (HC), defeated Rosanne Guadagaino (AH) and John Bulette (AH), 7-5, 6-4.

After the tough and grueling matches were over and the scores were recorded, everyone was treated to gatorade and ben-gay!



# There are no ivy covered walls, but...



*Happy participants at the unusual graduation ceremony are from left to right: William Bormann Sr., father of the graduate; the graduate, William Bormann; Jonathan Messerli, Ph.D., president of Susquehanna University; and Ellwyn Spiker, hospital administrator.*

"And now by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna University board of trustees, I confer upon you this bachelor of science degree."

With these words, Jonathan Messerli, Ph.D., president of Susquehanna University, concluded one of the more unusual events to take place at the Hospital Center; a college graduation. With a big smile on his face and with the traditional black cap and gown covering the less traditional hospital gown, William Bormann, a trauma patient from Smoke Rise, New Jersey, accepted his diploma and became a university graduate.

Bormann, who received his degree while lying propped up in a bed which had been moved from his room to the solarium on 5C, indicated that he had only two weeks of classes left before graduation when he was involved in a near fatal auto accident. Losing

control of his car he slammed into a guardrail overlooking a steep embankment. The guardrail kept the car from going over the embankment but it crushed his right leg in the process.

Bormann was brought to the Hospital Center by MedEvac where a trauma team, led by Tamar Earnest, M.D., was able to save his leg. According to Earnest, the injury suffered by Bormann often results in amputation. Worried that his injury would prevent him from completing his final semester, Bormann made arrangements to take his final exams while he was a patient here at the Hospital Center.

Messerli said that he heard about Bormann's accident and decided it was not right for Bormann to miss his once in a lifetime college graduation. So he made arrangements to come here and conduct a personal graduation ceremony.

Clad in his crimson doctoral robe, Messerli turned to Bormann's assembled family before the ceremony and joked, "This is not a cut rate job as you well know from the tuition bills over the last four years." Afterwards, Messerli, who had handed out 350 diplomas to other graduating seniors the week before, explained why he had really come. "I wanted to bring a little happiness here too."

In addition to Bormann and Messerli, the graduation ceremony was attended by Bormann's family, his girlfriend, a number of Hospital Center staff members, Earnest and Ellwyn Spiker, administrator, and Bormann's young roommate, Jason Pilarski. Pilarski, who celebrated his 12th birthday the week before by coming out of traction for the first time in a month, had also broken his leg when he was thrown from a mini bike.



# We need help

We put out the invitation and too many came. How's that for a new twist? Now don't misunderstand, we're not complaining. As a matter of fact we're excited. But we need your help.

Who are we? We're Explorer Post 916, the medical explorer post sponsored by the Hospital Center. And we're here to help youths interested in health care careers explore the many options open to them.

But we've got a problem and only you can help solve it. The popularity of our program keeps growing and we don't have enough staff members involved in the program to support the increasing number of youths who want to join.

As a result, there is a chance we're going to have to limit the number of youths allowed in the post this fall and that would be unfortunate.

There's no fair way to decide who can join and who can't. We also risk losing some students who could make a real contribution to our profession in the future if they only receive the right kind of encouragement now.

So we're hoping more of you will get involved. You don't need any special background to help out. You don't have to be a whiz at camping, tying knots or lighting campfires with wet matches. Those days are gone. What you do need is a little time and an interest in helping some bright kids make some tough choices.

If you find yourself sitting there pondering the possibilities, you're interested. So why not call Pam Oser in educational development at 2026 for more information?

## What a way to wake up!

"This is unforgettable WSAN and we'll be back in a minute with more of the music you want to hear. But right now it's time to salute our working woman of the day and she is... the entire nursing staff of floor 5A at the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center."

Those are the words to which many Lehigh Valley residents awakened on June 21. And it came as a complete surprise to everyone except WSAN D.J. Jeff Boulden who arranged the public pat on the back. This was his way of saying thanks.

Boulden was a patient on 5A last year when he broke his leg and he enjoyed it so much he celebrated the one year anniversary of his visit with a second visit. This time to have follow-up work done on his leg.

Commenting about why he had nominated the 5A nursing staff as woman of the day Boulden stated, "Fourteen months is a long time to have a broken leg. The only thing that made it bearable were those nurses. They were super."



*Women of the day — the 5A nurses*



# Community college

## changes the rules

As many of you recently found out, Northampton County Area Community College (NCACC) changed the tuition rules for Hospital Center employees who don't live in Northampton County. Beginning with the summer session, employees who don't live in the county will have to pay \$37.00 per credit for courses they take at the college.

This change will apply to both job related and non job related courses. Employees who are affected by the change should check with the personnel office (2658) before they register to see if they are eligible for tuition reimbursement from the Hospital Center once the course is completed.

Employees who are residents of Northampton County will not be affected by this change. They will be able to continue taking both job related and non job related courses at NCACC free of charge.

The college explained that this change was needed to make their tuition waiver policies uniform. When the college waives payment of the tuition, as they do for Hospital Center employees, they are actually waiving only one third of the total tuition, the third which the student usually pays. The state and the student's home school district pay the other two thirds.

But the student's home school district is not obligated to pay NCACC anything if the student lives outside of Northampton county. So the college ended up having to waive two thirds of the total tuition for students who are not Northampton county residents while they were waiving only one third for students living in the county.

The rule change corrects this imbalance. The college will now be waiving only one-third of the tuition for our employees no matter where they live.

## Surgery chief testifies

How many of you took the time to fasten your seat belts this morning? That is one of the questions Donald H. Gaylor, M.D., chairman of the department of surgery here and at The Allentown Hospital, recently asked a group of state lawmakers.

Gaylor, who is also president of the American Trauma Society's Pennsylvania Division, didn't ask the question to embarrass anyone. He asked it to make a point. The point is that an average of only one in 10 drivers takes the time and as a result, thousands of needless deaths and many more thousands of needless disabling injuries occur each year on the nation's highways.

In his testimony before a committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Gaylor went on to say that any injury or death which could have been prevented by the use of seat belts is tragic. But the tragedy is compounded when the victim is a child.

As Gaylor put it, children do not have the knowledge or the sense of responsibility expected of adults. "They place their total faith in us as adults, as parents, as grandparents and many have had this faith destroyed by lethal accidents."

Gaylor made his comments to members of the House Consumer Affairs Committee as they considered Senate Bill 21, "The Child Passenger Protection Act." This bill, which is supported by Gaylor and the Pennsylvania Division of the American Trauma Society, would require the use of safety seats or restraints for small children when they are passengers in motor vehicles.

Legislation of this type has already been approved by a number of states and some of the Canadian provinces. The result has been a decrease in the number of child injuries and deaths arising out of motor vehicle accidents.



# Burn

# and Booros

# team up



*Receiving tournament proceeds are from left to right: Sandra Raymond, director of the local Burn Foundation office; Donald Miller, Burn Foundation advisory board chairman; Carl "Bucky" Schwab, owner of Allentown Beverage Co.; and Jim Booros.*

When you think of the Burn Foundation, a golf tournament is not usually the first thing that comes to mind. Yet under a hot August sun a couple of weeks ago that combination proved quite successful when the Burn Foundation and Jim Booros, head golf professional at the Allentown Municipal Course and a playing member of the PGA Golf Tour, teamed up to raise funds for the foundation.

On August 29, Booros and 17 other professional golfers, whom Booros recruited to help the Burn Foundation, were paired up with a field of local amateurs to play in the First Annual Michelob-Benner Fairways Pro Am Golf Tournament. The tournament, which was played at the Allentown Municipal Golf Course, featured such golfing notables as Booros; Larry Mize, winner of the Danny Thomas Memphis Classic; Fred Couples, winner of the 1983 Kemper Open Classic; Rex Caldwell, currently in 28th place on the PGA money list; Dennis Watson; Ralph Landrum; Tony Cerda; and Lance Ten Broeck.

Each of the pros was teamed with a foursome of local amateurs to compete for \$3,200 in golf merchandise for the amateurs and a purse of \$1,800 for the pros. The pairing of the amateurs and the pros was accomplished through a random drawing.

The tournament, sponsored by Allentown Beverage, was set up to help the Burn Foundation raise funds in a number of ways. The amateurs who entered paid a tax deductible entry fee of \$250. This allowed them to compete with the pros, a once in a lifetime opportunity for many. It also included a luncheon, a dinner at the Allentown Hilton the night of the tournament, 20 gallery tickets, and a shot at the prizes.



## TOURNAMENT (continued from page 7)

In addition, local business groups, civic groups, and individuals sponsored tees and greens and spectator gallery tickets were sold to the general public at a price of \$5.00 a ticket.

Sandra Raymond, director of the East/Northeast Pennsylvania Office of the Burn Foundation, described the public response to the tournament as overwhelming. A crowd of about 6,000 spectators braved the hot weather to watch Caldwell, Landrum, and Cerda tie for first place among the competing pros with four under par 69's. All 36 of the tees and greens were sponsored and more than 80 individuals and businesses signed up as tournament patrons. As a result, over \$15,000 was turned over to the Burn Foundation to support the foundation's work.



*One of the pros gives instructions in driving technique.*

According to Raymond, the success of this event, televised by WPVI T.V. (Channel 6) in Philadelphia and Channel 2 locally, was critical to the continued operation of the Burn Foundation. Currently the Foundation is supported by donations, funds from the Hospital Center, and grant funds from the Pool Trust.

But the terms of the hospital and the Pool Trust funding require that the Burn Foundation be financially

self sufficient by 1985. This tournament was an important step toward that goal.

While the glitter at the tournament may have gone to the pros, the competition among the amateurs was also intense. The winning foursome of Don Knerr, Mike Galla, Randy Laudenschlager, and Gene Luknicki finished well under par and yet managed to beat three other foursomes by only one stroke.

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